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FACTS AND FANCIES.

—Tomatoes were first used in this country as an edible in the year 1819, but they did not come into general use until more than twenty years subsequent to that date.

—A pair of old boots, a bag of salt and a pound of coppers, if dropped into a spring at the right time of the year, will go a good ways toward establishing a fashionable summer resort.

—Oahkosh, Wis., boasts of a woman 104 years old, and, as it is popular to assign some reason for living so long, it is asserted that she "never used kerosene oil."

—Simeon Gray, of Port Hope, Delaware, shot himself because some one left a baby on his door-step. How much better to have picked up the infant and softly handed it along to the house around the corner.

—In order to make the lowlands in Louisiana safe for residents, 1,500 miles of levee, or 50,000,000 cubic yards of wall will have to be built. The necessary repairs at crevasses alone are expected to cost \$3,000,000, of which Uncle Sam is expected to pay two-thirds.

—A writer in the Rural New Yorker says, that cows should be salted every morning, and in the stable, before foddering, but never after taking water. This is the practice of the best stock-keepers of Switzerland, and he thinks it quite preferable to salting them once or twice a week, or to keep it constantly within their reach.

—At a Presbyterian church, in Saratoga, a sermon was recently delivered on the Christian's recatta toward the

heavenly goal. He was described as feathering his ear with precision turn-

heavenly goal. He was described as feathering his oar with precision, turning the stakeboat of life with all the resolution of faith, coming down the desperate course of the homesteadly with vigor, fixing his eye on the heavenly Referee and taking good care not to imitate the disciple Judas and break his soul.

—A distinguished clerical gentleman of Wisconsin is somewhat noted for parsimony, and for "dead-heading" his way on lecture tours, etc. He has been a great traveler, and at a social party in Madison in conversation with the hostess, he said: "Madam, do you know that I, also, like Leander and Lord Byron, swam across the Hellespont?" The lady said: "I have no doubt but what you did, rather than to pay your fare on a steamboat."

—There is a Chinese establishment on camp street, near China, New Orleans, that manufactures a peppermint oil; and the following placard can be seen in its show-window:

"The Peppermint Oil
for
Hed
Bellie
Toth."

this oil any person
ort to have a bottle in his pocket it will
kure any kine sickness we it happen."

—Cricken down is said to form a
beautiful cloth when woven. For about
a square yard of the material, a pound
and a-half of down is required. "The
fabric is said to be almost indestruct-
ible, as, in place of being strained or
wrought out at folds, it only seems to
felt tighter. It takes dye readily, and is
thoroughly water-proof. There ap-
pears to be a good opportunity here
for some ingenious person to invent
machines to cut and treat feathers."

—Canon Kingsley, in his recent work
on "Health and Education," says:
"Did I try to train a young man of
science to be true, devout, and earnest,
accurate, and daring I should say:
Read what you will, but at least read
Carlyle. It is a small matter to me,
and I doubt not to him, whether you
will agree with his special conclusions,
but his premises and his method are
irrefragable; for they stand on fact
and common sense."

—Some enterprising St. Louisans,
with a number of Southerners, have
negotiated for a tract of territory,
which has been found suitable for the
growth in large quantities of the trop-
ical plant, *pita*, the fibre of which is
claimed to be superior to jute or hemp.
These gentlemen are of the belief that
very simple machinery will prepare
their plant for market, and that its
manufacture will prove very profitable,
now that the production of hemp is de-
creasing in this country.

—The Chicago Tribune has been ex-
amining into food adulterations in that
city. The special field selected has
been an analysis of the groceries sold
at the leading grocery stores in that
city. Specimens have been bought
from various establishments, in the
usual course of trade, of sugar, coffee,
tea, soap, syrups, cream of tartar, bak-
ing powders, etc., and they have been
subjected to analytical tests by a skill-
ful chemist. The result shows that
every article tested is adulterated to a
greater or less degree.

—Many young people think that an
idle life must be a pleasant one. But
this is a sad mistake, as they would
soon find out if they made a trial of the
life they think so agreeable. One who
is never busy can never enjoy rest; for
rest implies a relief from previous labor;
and if our whole time were spent in
amusing ourselves, we should find it
more wearisome than the hardest day's
work. Recreation is only valuable as it
unbends us; the idle can know nothing
of it. Many people leave off business
and settle down to a life of enjoyment;
but they find that they are not nearly
so happy as they were before, and they
are often glad to return to the occupa-
tions to escape the miseries.